IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below

5   1 (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a guard period of each received OFDM frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

10   entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

continuously monitoring said guard period of each received OFDM frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing

15 pattern is not detected at said periodic frame interval for a predefined number of blocks.

2 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a predefined synchronization condition is the detection of a predefined cyclic prefix pattern.

20   3. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a guard period of each received OFDM frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

25   entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

continuously monitoring said guard period of each received OFDM frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is detected at an unexpected location for a predefined number of blocks.

4 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein a predefined synchronization condition is the detection of a predefined cyclic prefix pattern

5 (Currently Amended) An apparatus for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring a guard period of each received OFDM frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for continuously monitoring said guard period of each received OFDM frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

means for returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is not detected at said periodic frame interval for a predefined number of blocks

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring a guard period of each received OFDM frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for continuously monitoring said guard period of each received OFDM frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

means for returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is detected at an unexpected location for a predefined number of blocks.